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Review: An Illustrated Geography

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The self-instructed are thus confirmed in one of the most common faults—waste of time in arithmetic.

These various defects make the book a dangerous guide to the uninstructed; but they do not appreciably diminish its value as an exercise book for those under good instruction; and it is to be hoped that for this purpose it may be widely used, and the enterprise of its authors suitably rewarded.

AN ILLUSTRATED GEOGRAPHY.

'*Illustrierte Länderkunde.*' By Ewald Banse and others. Brunswick, etc.: G. Westermann. 1914. *Map and Illustrations.*

The purpose of the authors has been to produce an authoritative compendium of modern geography of moderate size and reasonable price. The usual subdivision of the Earth's surface into continents has been discarded in favour of a subdivision into what might be termed cultural regions, which to the authors is the only true method of viewing the globe. The regional divisions adopted are the Orient (Asiatic and African), Europe (excluding Russia), Greater Siberia (including Russia and Northern Asia), Mongolia or Highland Asia, Eastern Asia, India (or southern Asia), Greater Australia, Nigritia (or African south of the Sahara), East South America, Andina, Central America, Cordillera, America (east of the Rockies), Arctis, and Antaretis. These major regions are then subdivided into minor climatic and topographical regions, which are discussed and compared from the point of view of the effect of varying natural conditions upon the general cultural type. The plan of the work is discussed in the introduction and the principles there enumerated are consistently followed throughout the various sections. The limited size of the volume has necessitated careful selection of the facts presented for consideration. Each section, however, is written by a specialist, and the result is a highly interesting and suggestive, as well as well-illustrated, volume, which may be commended to the careful attention of anthropogeographers.

J. D. F.

THE MONTHLY RECORD.

EUROPE.

Distribution of Population in Sardinia.—An interesting study of the distribution of population in the island of Sardinia is contributed by G. Anfossi to the *Bollettino* of the Italian Geographical Society, 1915, Nos. 2 and 3 (also in abridged form in *La Geografia*, May–June, 1915). Besides presenting the data in tabular form the article is well provided with sketch-maps and diagrams showing the distribution of inhabited centres, the distribution of density in 1861 and 1911, the distribution of variation in density (chiefly increase) during the half-century, the distribution by altitude, and so on. The increase for the whole island reaches the high value of 45 per cent. during the half-century—greater than that for Italy as a whole (39 per cent.). The distribution of the increase is rather striking, most of the north and east showing over 50 per cent., and a considerable area in the extreme north-east over 100 per cent. (reached also over limited areas in the south and south-west). Mining development is no doubt largely responsible for the increase in the Iglesiente. Generally speaking the greatest increase is in the parts that were most sparsely populated in 1861, and this indicates a considerable shifting of population. The island has tended towards a more equal distribution of